

DRAFT Minutes

Agricultural & Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Thursday, January 10, 2013, at 9:00 am

Charlotte County Administrative Center

18500 Murdock Circle, Room #B-207

Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1094

MEMBERS PRESENT

Andy Dodd, Chairman

Wes Brumback, Vice Chairman

Dan Ryals

Chris Hencher

Matthew Sullivan, Jr.

Steve Smith

Orrin Webb, Secretary

MEMBERS EXCUSED

MEMBERS ABSENT

GUEST

Gio Ijpkemeule

STAFF

Matt Trepal, Staff Liaison

Inga Williams, Principal Planner

Ralph Mitchell, Staff Liaison

Gayle Moore, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The **January 10, 2013**, meeting of the ***Agricultural and Natural Resources Advisory Committee*** was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by ***Chairman Dodd*** who noted that there was a quorum present.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

- ***Chairman Dodd*** indicated he had a new matter for the agenda, to discuss the new version of the Committee's ordinance, and the timeline for the public hearing on that matter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Dodd asked to have the minutes approved; ***Mr. Hencher*** moved approval of the minutes of the September 13, 2012 meeting, second by ***Mr. Sullivan***. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Duffy had advised Mr. Dodd she would not be present, which he relayed to the group.

OLD BUSINESS

- ❖ **Proposed Article XXIII Excavation and Earthmoving; Ms. Williams** spoke in response to **Mr. Smith's** request for a status update, noting that staff was giving the new Commissioners a bit of time to get oriented before presenting this matter. She indicated that initially she and Ms. Vernon would walk the document around to the Commissioners to give them the background and then the matter would go through the public hearing process.
- ❖ **Calusa Green Landfill Update** – discussion of the denial of the proposed text amendment at yesterday's BCC meeting. **Ms. Williams** noted the landfill itself was still on hold with no indication from the applicants as to their plans. **Chairman Dodd** asked whether the map would be revised going forward; Ms. Williams discussed the direction staff had received from the Board as to improvements to be made. Further discussion ensued on the maps that had been presented as part of the public hearing which neither staff nor interested ANRAC members had previously been aware of. **Mr. Trepal** spoke about the current efforts being mounted in terms of research and answered Mr. Dodd's questions as to whether consultants would be used and the anticipated timeline for presenting changes to the BCC. **Mr. Trepal** noted that this would be presented as part of the EAR amendments; **Ms. Williams** noted the anticipated timeline was to have it concluded within 2013. Further discussion ensued on the possible changes anticipated. **Chairman Dodd** emphasized the importance of this work and the resulting conclusions to the ANRAC membership; he asked about other options for input from area residents, above and beyond the public hearing venue. **Ms. Williams** clarified that with regard to the Comp Plan, the maps are not what would be changed but rather the policies associated with what the maps reveal.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hamel indicated he had no comments.

Mr. Brumback and Mr. Webb arrived and were greeted.

Ms. Gio Ijpkemeule from SWFWMD spoke about FARMS programs contracts language changes coming forward. **Mr. Sullivan** asked if there was a financial guarantee coming for the future; is the budget being examined to account for program longevity, or could the rug be pulled out? **Ms. Ijpkemeule** said they don't have the sense of any sudden reductions, but that there are no guarantees. She explained that when they have run out of funds in the middle of fiscal years past, funds were pulled in from other programs where available; the history is that the FARMS program uses all funds made available, which is considered a good thing. 2014 budget work is beginning and there are no indications that the budget amount would be at risk.

GUEST COMMENTS

Mr. Harrington indicated he had no comments.

STAFF COMMENTS

Ralph Mitchell provided information on upcoming programs, including Best Management Practices for applicators, and Master Gardner training.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Chairman Dodd, having polled the other members, who had no comments, spoke on the two Committee vacancies, AG Realty and Land Use & Law; he asked Mr. Harrington if he had an interest in any vacant seat and **Mr. Harrington** said he was interested in the AG Realty position. The matter was opened up to the members for discussion. **Mr. Hencher** said he had no objection; **Mr. Webb** called the question, second by **Mr. Ryals**, and a unanimous vote recommended him for the position. The recording secretary was directed to contact the Commission Assistants to initiate the process, and to copy the Chair.

The Chair also noted that the new Committee rules would be coming forward, involving changes to the betterment of the group with regard to the categories of membership. He also indicated that updated resumes are being required by the Commissioners from all current members.

CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

None.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

Chairman Dodd suggested that the membership would want to keep an eye on the changes to the aquifer maps, and ways to create incentives for users rather than shutting down activity. **Mr. Smith** suggested keeping the proposed excavation ordinance on the agenda until that matter was resolved also. **Ms. Ijpkemeule** inquired whether members wanted additional FARMS project information to review; it was agreed that such information would be helpful to receive. **Mr. Sullivan** raised the topic of the new buffalo ranch in East County that is said to have 1800 head now on site. A brief discussion about the operation ensued. **Ms. Ijpkemeule** talked about water buffalo in Costa Rica for cheese, noting that this is quite different from bison. **Mr. Harrington** spoke about an attempt at beefalo production, and what difficult animals they are to confine. Further discussion ensued.

NEXT MEETING

❖ *March 14, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. in Room B-207*

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m. as moved by **Mr. Sullivan** and seconded by **Mr. Hencher**.

**To be approved by the Committee on:
March 14, 2013**

**Approved by the Committee on
March 14, 2013 and accepted by
the Secretary:**
